

# Kilby Sun

DIXIE'S ONLY PRINTED WEEKLY PRISON NEWSPAPER

VOL. 5 NO. 13

MONTGOMERY, ALA.

February 11, 1966

## Parole Board Member Addresses Prison Jaycees

By Gordon McCarley

Norman Ussery of the Alabama Board of Pardons and Paroles was guest speaker at the regular meeting of the Eastmont Jaycees on the evening of January 25, 1966.

Mr. Ussery's talk was most informative concerning the formation and the formative years of the Board of Pardons and Paroles. The first parole law was actually a commutation of sentence, or suspension of sentence. The State Legislature gave this power to the governor in 1897. The first three man board was established in 1901, and its members consisted of the attorney general, the state auditor, and the secretary of state.

In 1935, Alabama had only one parole officer for the entire state. The advantages of parole have been increasingly recognized since that date, and there are presently 43 parole and probation officers with an average case load of 183. Mr. Ussery stated that this was approximately four times the number of parolees and probationers recommended by the National Parole and Probation Officers Association.

There are many men, according to Mr. Ussery, who are presently in the custody of the Alabama Board of Corrections, who could be placed on parole if funds were available to employ additional officers. Beside the value of human life, there is the financial side of this which cannot be overlooked. The cost of maintaining a man in prison for one year is \$1250. When this same man is placed on parole, the cost is reduced to a mere \$73.75.

Mr. Ussery also pointed out that parolees earned some fifteen million dollars during 1965. Of this amount, some three and one-half million found its way back to the government by way of taxes.

The value in human lives and the financial gain provided by the parolees should be enough for the average thinking person to appreciate the parole system as provided for in Ala-

bama.

We hear so much about the rate of recidivism, but according to Mr. Ussery's report only 6.3 percent were returned for parole violation. When dealing with the uncertainties of human life, this can indeed be considered a very good average.

The cost of maintaining a prisoner in the prison system which is \$1250 per year does not include the monies paid to dependents of these men while they are imprisoned. If this figure was added to the \$1250, it would be even more impressive when compared to the cost of supervision of a parolee.

However, Mr. Ussery was quick to point out that parole is simply a way of "pushing the walls back." The man is still serving his sentence, and this without the benefit of time off for good behavior.

He also reminded the men in the audience that parole was not a reward for good behavior, but certainly a man's conduct is considered when his case is reviewed for parole consideration. In simple terms, parole is, "A plan for the control and treatment of the prisoner which extends beyond the prison walls."

### Coal Shovelers On Duty

During the past week Kilby's farm squads were called from their usual winter hibernation and put to work shovelling coal. Over 200 tons is on hand according to Mr. Gregory, the guard on duty at the powerhouse.

Three squads of ten men each are working around the clock to keep Kilby warm and in hot water.

It seems strange to hear of coal shovelers in this Age of Atomic Reactors, but never-

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## 1st. Red Cross Emergency First Aid Course Ended January 31

On Monday evening, January 31, the first Red Cross emergency first aid class received their Standard cards upon completion of the course. This course lasted 10 hours. Out of the 13 who started this course, 11 finished, with 8 going on to take the advanced course. The first aid classes are being held on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings after the first count. This course is being offered by the American Red Cross, Montgomery chapter. Mr. Larry Bacon who is the field director of the Montgomery chapter comes out and gives us innumerable aid in first aid and accident prevention. Marvin Ford is the instructor of this course. The 11 men who finished the Standard course are:

John Becton  
Wilson Hawkins  
Curtis Estes  
Maurice Blankinship  
Norman Blankinship  
Dennis Bretherick

Gordon McCarley  
McArthur Wells  
Frank Peoples  
Tommy Oakes  
Reginald Finch

Around the middle of February, a new class will start up. Due to the fact of limited facilities we are only able to accommodate 12 members in each class so if you are not among the first 12, please don't give up.

## Snowtown Trio Attends Services

Even in spite of the temperature dropping to a record 8 degrees below zero, and accompanied by heavy snowfall in the Bessemer area, and without regard that this was the coldest recorded weather since 1897 the Bessemer Snowtown Trio Group of singers managed to brave these difficulties and attend the Door of Hope Chapel services, Sunday, January 30.

This fine Christian group of singers regularly come to the prison chapel and they are in the following order: Mr. Eddie Tanner, Director; Misses Annette and Catherine Flippo; and Mr. Bill Flippo. Widely known because of their outstanding singing among church groups throughout the state, these dedicated workers are to be highly commended for their efforts undertaken in behalf of the Kilby Chapel members.

Only true Christian faith could have inspired them to come under such adverse weather conditions, and most certainly the lives of the men here were enriched as a result of it.

## Prison Officials Award Certificate Of Recognition

A certificate of recognition was recently presented to the men of Kilby by State Prison Director, Mr. A. F. Lee, and Mr. Herschel Littrell, member of the Board of Prison Directors. The certificate was given in recognition of the Eastmont Jaycee Chapter, and the men of Kilby who gave 187 pints of life-saving blood to the American Red Cross on Saturday, January 22, 1966. This blood was to be consigned to U. S. Forces in Viet Nam.

This was no small effort, when considered in light of the fact that the total Kilby population is numbered at 600 persons. Taken from this figure are more than 100 men who are either too old or have chronic ailments which prevented their donating blood. From this, one can determine just how large a percentage gave blood and the actual figure is fixed at something over 37 per cent.

It is hoped that this blood will never be needed, but if it is, then we shall be even more glad for this privilege of having helped in this very worthy cause.



## From The Editor's Desk

"I will speak ill of no man, and speak all the good I know of everybody." Franklin

Jerry Crump

### NEEDED: LEGISLATION AND A NEW APPROACH...

The combined overall population of Alabama's State Prison System presently ranks among the highest in the nation, per state capita. I do not have access to the exact figures, yet am aware that the foregoing statement is accurately correct since I regularly see it in newsprint and have for several years now.

What is responsible for this situation is not quite clear and doubtless there are many numerous factors which contribute to it. It is certain, however, that a concerned society and general public should take the initiative and necessary steps to eliminate this situation with its appalling waste of misspent human life.

There are many approaches to the problem of crime, the lawbreaker, and this heavy concentration of men, women and youthful offenders, all human beings, who have found themselves at odds with society, and are behind bars.

In various states, this complex problem is approached at the university level through dedicated studies that have been made possible because of Foundation grants, and by responsible citizens who are concerned with the value of human lives, as well as in eliminating this so called "thorn in society's side." It is, and can be alleviated by a modern, progressive criminal court system, unhampered by politics; and it also can be checked with the aid of a sound rehabilitation program.

I myself, personally feel that a milestone has been reached and an era has ended for the state penal system and its many inmates. In the planning stage and on the drawing boards is a new, modern and costly central prison to be erected in the near future. For all of the cost, planning and study which has gone into this undertaking, then undoubtedly much planning and thought will be given to a sound, advanced rehabilitation program of schooling and training for this new prison's inhabitants. Assuming this is true, then no doubt there will be a decrease in the excessively great number who have consigned their lives to imprisonment in Alabama.

Another more available and practical solution at the present time would be a special bill placed before the Alabama State Legislature to increase the annual State Pardons and Paroles Board's appropriation fund. Only very recently in an address to the prison Jaycee chapter did Mr. Norman Ussery, Parole Board member, explain that with increased funds to hire additional supervisors, then many men now languishing in prison could be released under supervised parole. He went further, pointing out that the yearly cost of supervising a parolee is only \$73.75 in contrast to the many times increased figure of \$1,250 for maintaining the same individual in prison for one year.

The benefits of such a legislative measurement would be boundless and invaluable to the person in prison, as well as to the free society into which most prisoners will ultimately return regardless of whether placed under supervised parole or not.

In this advanced, enlightened atomic age, science is unlocking the secrets of the universe, yet tragically it has completely bypassed the relatively easy resolved questions faced by today's penologists, such as crowded prisons and misspent human life.



## The Sun Is Your Paper

The *Kilby Sun* paper is printed for one primary reason only, and that is for everyone's enjoyment and benefit. It very likely does not fulfill this purpose to a great many though, in view of the criticism which is regularly directed toward it by some of the readers.

For me, the *Sun's* Editor, this is a job assignment that I was assigned to! And, I didn't ask for my job, nor put in any request-slips to be placed on it either. I have in several instances asked for another job assignment and it might be said that I'm on my present job through no choice of my own.

I am doing the best that I possibly can under the circumstances, however. If you have any complaints or constructive criticism about the paper, then you should not confine it exclusively to your friends. The only way to have the *Sun* contain articles of interest to you is to contact the Editor and give your views or suggestions. Contrary to the popular belief, we cannot print any and every thing because of censorship. The principle of "Freedom Of The Press" has no application as far as a prison publication is concerned.

Any reasonable idea will be considered, whether I agree with it or not; and the question of importance is, will it be beneficial to everyone.

Usually, I am the very last to learn of things which would be of interest and suitable for printing. If you know of anything which is suitable for printing and would be of interest to print, then roughly outline it on paper, put it in an envelope with my name on it and leave it at the mailroom. The mail clerk will be more than glad to give it to me, and through this means, you won't be put to much inconvenience in making this contribution.

Any help will be appreciated and may result in a better *Sun* newspaper.

The term "Iron Curtain" came from a speech made by Winston Churchill in 1946.

## DOOR OF HOPE CHAPEL

### CHAPEL ACTIVITIES

REV. H. C. KIMBRELL  
CHAPLAIN

Regular Weekend Services

#### SATURDAY

Catholic Mass ..... 7:00 A.M.\*

Father Timothy Deasy, Celebrant

\*Confessions at 6:30 o'clock.

Mass each 2nd and 4th Saturday

#### SUNDAY

Church of Christ ..... 8:00 A.M.

Bros. Carroll Puckett & Edd Holt

Sunday School ..... 9:30 A.M.

Ruth Hobson 1st & 3rd Sunday

Bro. Joe Veitch .... 4th Sunday

Morning Worship .... 10:30 P.M.

Rev. H. C. Kimbrell - Chaplain

Afternoon Worship ... 2:00 P.M.

Visiting Pastors and Singers

#### WEEKDAY ACTIVITY

Wednesday - Catholic Sisters .. 2:30

Sister Mary Emily & Sister Zita

Thursday - Catholic Christian Laymen's Discussion Group ... 7:30

Friday - Bible Discussion ... 7:00

Bro. Violette

### KILBY PRISON OFFICIALS

Warden William C. Holman

O.F. Wells ..... Assistant Warden

R. L. Fox ..... Classification Officer

W. L. Trawick ..... Correctional Captain

Jimmie White ..... Print Shop Supt.

### KILBY SUN STAFF

Jerry Crump ..... Editor

Ben Wildman ..... Copy And Proof

Chuck Kenney ..... Pressman

James Howard ..... Make Up

Compositors

Ben Wildman ..... George Henderson

Jack Alsmen

The *KILBY SUN* is published weekly by inmates of Alabama State Prison. Purpose of this newspaper is to inform inmates on matters not readily accessible to them and to foster a better understanding between inmates, officials, and the general public.

Ideas and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the administration.

Readers, inmates and public alike are invited to express their opinions regarding the contents of this publication. Address comments to: The Editor: *KILBY SUN*, Rt. 3 Box 115, Montgomery, Alabama. PERMISSION IS GRANTED TO REPRINT ANY ITEM APPEARING HEREIN IF CREDIT IS GIVEN.

### SUNDAY DINNER

February 13, 1966

### Baked Fresh Ham

Soup — Dressing

Brown Gravy — Baked Potatoes

String Beans

Layer Cake — Chocolate Icing

Hot Rolls Hot Coffee

THIS PAPER IS HAND SET





## A Glance Into History

By Jerry Crump

### THE TRIAL OF FRANK JAMES

After their departure, the manager of Selma's St. James Hotel was able to recall that they had behaved in good gentlemanly fashion. They had taken separate rooms registering under the name of "Williams" and most of their day was spent playing billiards in the hotel's billiard room.

The hotel manager, however, was completely unaware that his guests were the notorious James brothers, Jesse and Frank. And it was just as well that he didn't for another page of their colorful history may have been written in blood here in this rural Alabama town.

They were here during March of 1881 for the exclusive purpose of peacefully visiting a lifelong friend and fellow soldier of the Confederate Army, John Green Norris, who had re-moved here following the close of the war. They met discretely with Norris at night in order not to focus any attention on themselves nor embarrass or implicate Norris in any way.

Left behind and forgotten in Arkansas, Missouri, and throughout the mid-western states, were memories of recent hard fight to avoid capture by sheriff's posses; riding through a leaden hail of gunfire on several very recent occasions and the constant and dogged determination of the Pinkerton Detective Agency. Left behind, as well, was an impressive number of banks whose assets had been forcefully converted at the point of their gun and alal, an equal number of Railway Express Company safes rifled in the course of their train robberies.

Their peaceful coming and going went unnoticed at Selma, but was to quickly change as they rode eastward toward Tennessee.

At 4:00 p.m. on March 11, 1881, Alexander G. Smith, a paymaster for the United States Army, was riding along the Muscle Shoals Canal, two miles from Florence, Alabama. He was enroute to the U. S. Army Engineers camp at Bluewater, delivering in his saddlebags the engineer's payroll of \$5,200.00.

In the space of ten brief minutes, Paymaster Smith had been disarmed at gunpoint, tied up and robbed by three masked horsemen who were afterward claimed to be none other than the James gang.

The long arm of the law did not snare either of these culprits, however, until 1884, and by this time only Frank James was available. Jessie had already fallen the unfortunate victim to a coward's bullet, fired by the treacherous hand of a member of his own gang. The remaining accomplice, "Wild" Bill Ryan, had been previously apprehended and was already in prison under sentence of twenty five years for another crime.

The trial of Frank James was set in Huntsville, Alabama, and for two months, he was confined in a filthy Huntsville jail, subjected to stares of hundreds of curiosity seekers who thronged the jail to gawk at him. He maintained good composure, however, kept his mustache trimmed, smoked good cigars and managed a ready smile and kind word for the ladies and children who passed his cell.

The April 1884 Huntsville trial of Frank James was one of the most exciting and publicized events in the city's history. Accompanying Frank during trial was his wife, Ann Ralton, and their small six-year-old son.

He was confronted by the government's star witness, James Andrew Liddell, a former member of the James gang who was now turning state's witness in an effort to escape prosecution by the government for other crimes which he was under charge. It was Liddell himself who had conspired with the Ford brothers, Bob and Charlie, to murder Jesse.

Liddell gave testimony which was of a circumstantial nature, claiming in effect that he had overheard the James brothers and "Wild" Bill Ryan planning the Muscle Shoals, Army Paymaster robbery. Liddell's testimony did not carry much weight, however, and he was discredited by the Huntsville-Democrat newspaper because of his unsavory past. A known horse thief, he was additionally a several times murderer as well. His most recent homicide, and a particularly gruesome one, was the December 1881 murder of Wood Hite. His bullet plowed into poor Hite's brain several inches above the right eye, and it was said that this murder grew out of a difficulty provoked after Wood Hite accused Liddell of carrying on with his young stepmother.

Frank could not be positively identified by any of the government witnesses, and put on six witnesses himself who gave testimony that he was in Nashville, Tennessee, on the date of the alleged robbery. Needless to say, the trial-jury returned a "not guilty" verdict for reason of the insufficient evidence, and he was released.

In later years in Missouri, this famous outlaw redirected the course of his life, becoming a model citizen who worked as a shoe salesman, race track starter, farmer and circus-entertainer.

\* \* \* \* \*

Author's Note: Frank James and his famous brother did not rob a Huntsville Bank as Hollywood and the movie makers represent that they did. History records no such robbery, and again here is presented a typical example of Hollywood's exaggeration and distortion of the true accounts of history.

## ...NEWS AND VIEWS...

### SEARCH FOR IDENTITY ENDS

A lifetime search for an identity came to an end this year for an Oregon prisoner. Before releasing a man, identified only as Gene, prison officials arranged for a change in the man's sex.

Officials at the prison were reluctant to talk about the operation and said that they had not planned to make it public. However, they did say that two rare operations, coupled with hormone treatments, transformed the man into a woman, for all practical purposes.

Gene, known now as Jean, was interviewed by a Portland Oregon newspaperwoman in the undisclosed Oregon town where she has been living since her release on September 10, of this year. Jean said that she wasn't "scared anymore." "As a man I was unhappy. My body structure was too feminine to be comfortable," said the 30-year-old ex-prisoner with "definite feminine characteristics."

\* \* \* \* \*

**THE PRESIDIO** — Dion McKenzie, a member of the Spotted Tail Band of the Rosebud Tribe of Sioux Indians, wants Alcatraz Island. McKenzie, who is a welder residing in Oakland, contends in a federal suit that an 1868 treaty between the Sioux and the United States allows an Indian to take possession of up to 160 acres of unappropriated land and says the island has been "unappropriated" since the government closed the prison there.

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**PAUL CRUMP DENIED ILL. PAROLE** — The Illinois Pardons and Paroles Board has denied a parole to Paul Crump, author of, "Burn Killer Burn," and convicted killer whose death sentence was commuted to life imprisonment on the grounds that he had been rehabilitated.

Crump, convicted of murdering a night watchman in 1953, had his death sentence commuted to life imprisonment in 1963 by Governor Otto Kerner, who specified there should be no parole.

\* \* \* \* \*

**LAGOS, NIGERIA** — Inmates of the prison of this country are locked up in their cells for the night at 9 P.M., instead

of 5 P.M. The Federal Prison Director, F. S. Giwa-Osagie, stated the change was designed to make the prisoners feel more at home.

\* \* \* \* \*

**GERMANY'S WAYWARD PLAYWRIGHT** — One of the most sought after modern German dramatist is a habitual criminal currently serving a prison term for robbery in Frankfurt's prison. He is 39 year old Wolfgang Graetz who has written more than 20 radio and TV scripts, mostly while serving 17 different jail sentences. His works have had more than 50 presentations all over Europe. Many of his scripts concerned the attempt of released criminals to adapt to society.

His newest play, "The Conspirators," will be produced this year but he won't be able to see it before 1966, when his current 3 1/2 year sentence is completed. Meanwhile, he keeps in contact with stage and TV directors by telephone, being permitted to receive calls during specified hours.

He is allowed a typewriter in his cell for use after his 9 1/2 hours of prison labor for which he is paid 20c per hour. He gets many times that much, of course, in fees and royalties.

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(MP NEWS) — The administrator of all France's prisons, Paul Amor, reveals in an article that a French prisoner gets a foam mattress, simple but comfortable surroundings, central heating and fluorescent lighting, super-modern sanitation and a 6-foot-square window, and that all prisoners earn from \$12 to \$25 a week and are permitted to use their money for extra food, cigarettes and wine. Also, each prisoner gets a free issue of wine every day.

\* \* \* \* \*

### WHEELCHAIR BANDIT

Edward Coleman, operator of a poolroom in Baltimore, reported that a two-man hold-up team robbed him of \$17 and that one of them was in a wheelchair.

Coleman said the two men entered his poolroom, called him over and the man in the wheelchair held him while the other man rifled his pockets and stole the money. The bandits then fled, one pushing the wheelchair.



# sport events

By Jack Alsmann

## UMPIRE SCHOOL BEGINS FOR BASEBALL

On Saturday, February 12, 1966, a Baseball and Softball Umpire class will be started here at Kilby. The course will last approximately 14 weeks and the first part will consist of going through each rule governing the game. Classes will last for 2 hours each Saturday morning beginning at 9:00. Classes will be conducted by Marvin Ford who is a registered umpire with N.B.C. and A.S.A. The knowledge you gain will be a benefit to you not only here but in the free world as there is a big demand for good umpires in almost every locale in the country.

If you are interested in this course or want other information, see Marvin Ford in Cell 309-A.

When a team comes out the loser every night, it takes the heart right out of the players, I know. An outside player asked me at the game, "What's the matter with Kilby?" With all that height and two of the best shooters in the League, don't you know that actually hurts way down deep, because in the past three years that I have been here we have had some mighty good teams. What is wrong? Anyone who has the answer to that, I know that the team would appreciate it.

I know that our officials have been taking a lot of unfair lip from the spectators. Men, if you back the team with half that effort we might have a winner for Kilby. Lets try it.

## KILBY BASKETBALLERS

### LEAGUE TOP SCORERS

CHISHOLM	Hall 24.5 and Foster 24.1
ECLECTIC	Aaron 24.8 and Snell 24
WETUMPKA IND.	Jenkins 17.5 and Simmons 16
WETUMPKA JCs	Raley 21.6 and Bailey 17
PRATTVILLE	Franklin 12.1 and Hart 8.2
KILBY	King 24.8 and Matheney 20.4

I will list the League standings and also the future games of Kilby, and by this means you will know how they are faring.

Jan. 3 Chisholm at Kilby	Lost 71 to 48
Jan. 6 Wetumpka Ind. at Kilby	Lost 79 to 63
Jan. 12 Wetumpka J.C. at Kilby	Lost 86 to 56
Jan. 13 Prattville at Kilby	Lost 75 to 67
Jan. 17 Eclectic at Kilby	Lost 89 to 44
Jan. 20 Chisholm at Kilby	Lost 88 to 73
Jan. 24 Wetumpka Ind. at Kilby	Lost 100 to 67
Jan. 27 Wetumpka J.C. at Kilby	
Jan. 31 Prattville at Kilby	Lost 101 to 68
Feb. 4 Eclectic at Kilby	Lost 135 to 80
Feb. 7 Chisholm at Kilby	
Feb. 10 Wetumpka Ind. at Kilby	
Feb. 14 Wetumpka J.C. at Kilby	
Feb. 17 Prattville at Kilby	
Feb. 21 Eclectic at Kilby	

Basketball	League		Standings
Teams	Won	Lost	
Eclectic	9	1	
Chisholm	7	2	
Wetumpka Ind.	6	3	
Wetumpka J.C.	2	6	
Prattville	3	6	
Kilby	0	9	

## --On The Scene With Grenier--

BY JIM GRENIER

Happy Days! Here I am back again for another run through the gauntlet. After reading last week's 'colyum', some disturbed individuals tried bombing me from the upper tier with water-soaked paper. Guess I'm the only guy here with a toilet paper toupee. And now—to vengeance.

If you ever want to find Amos (Punchy) Barnett, walk down to the coffee shop. Old Punchy is always there willing to trade left hooks or conversation for a cup of coffee.

Art (Big Un) Fretwell tells about the two cannibals who thought they got religion because they had a missionary for dinner.

Expose: The operatic acrobatics heard during the reel changes at the movies came from B. L. (Caruso) Palmer. B. L. asked me to express his thanks for all your fine comments.

Sonny Hendrix came up with a new version for an excuse for the black-eye he was wearing. It seems that he was trying to pull a bale of cotton, and the baling wire broke, and he punched himself in the eye. HA!

Rudy (Boom Boom) Lambert told me he really enjoys working in the cold storage. Says he's going to see if he can

move his bed over there so he'll never have to leave.

James (Be Bop) Moore doesn't care what another says, he will continue to watch Batman every Wed. and Thurs night. (The real reason being that someone told him he looked like the Boy Wonder.)

Pete (Catfish) Osborne challenges Ali Baba to a game of ping pong. Catfish says that HE is the greatest. Wilson (Barefoot) Gatsos has volunteered to be the judge.

Reginald (Baby Face) Williams has been trying to bribe this writer with the promise of some choice bits of information about his friends. So far, these tidbits are unprintable, but don't stop now, Baby Face, you'll make good someday.

Terrell (Hollywood) Clark has a new hobby: writing poetry to James (Wild Man) Gregory. Quaint little rhymes about shoveling coal. (How lovely.)

Chester (Flipper) Johnson showed me a picture of one of his old girl friends. Believe me this girl ranks with some Hollywood movie stars. (Lassie, Rin-tin-tin, and Cheetah.)

Well, that's all for this issue, but your man on the scene will have some more of ya'll on the spot again next week.



"I'm beginning to wonder if you haven't exaggerated about being an old Army Demolition Expert."

## Kilby Theatre PRESENTS

Sat., February 12

### SONS OF KATIE ELDER

122 Min. Western - Color

#### STARRING

John Wayne

Dean Martin

Martha Hyer

Sun., February 13

### SWINGER PARADISE

83 Min. Comedy - Color

#### STARRING

Cliff Richard

Susan Hampshire



# Know The Truth And Know Thyself . . . .

By Freddie Underwood

The weak man with no particular success radiates nothing more than discouragement. We who stand behind steel barred doors, having our bodies counted innumerable times, radiate a particular kind of discouragement. We repeat having our bodies counted. But this does not mean that our minds and souls must be held by those same locks and bars which hold our bodies.

However most of us lack the motivation to begin a positive upheaval of mind and soul. We don't know what we stand for, therefore we stand for nothing—and nothing equals absolute discouragement.

What will motivate us? What will open our minds, make them receptive to the better things of life?

We might first consider religion in some manner, but religion, nor it's most sought after end, "Love Thy Neighbor" can be effectively practiced in prison. Too much hate exists for us to delve very deeply into any rewarding religious activities.

What other way lies open to us then, if we are to open our minds, reckoning properly our place in society? This I believe: Look toward the skies in dead of night or bright of day and realize how infinitesimal is the man compared to the universe. Do this and I believe that we will have released capacities of mind and soul which will allow us peace of mind. Do this and come to know one's proper place among all creatures on earth. Do this and come to know the reality of truth. Know the reality of truth and thus come to know thyself.

I know not if I know myself, but this I do know: I'll be here next week, will you?

## Senator Urges Hiring of Ex-Prisoners

Senator Long of Louisiana recently expressed concern before the U.S. Senate about the attitude of federal agencies and private businessmen concerning employment of persons who have been in prison. He said that very, very few released prisoners had engaged in organized crime. "I can understand the desire to keep hoodlums out of business organizations, but it is a destructive and self-defeating social policy to put such barriers against any and all persons who have been in prison." He expressed hope that the U.S. Civil Service Commission would lower barriers barring ex-prisoners from certain types of federal employment. "I believe immediate attention should be given to revising present policies that automatically rule out ex-prisoners when they apply for a job," he said.

### NOTABLE QUOTE

"Laws remain in credit not because they are just, but because they are laws. That is the mystic foundation of their authority. They have no other. They are often made by fools"

Montaigne

## Kentucky Liberalizes Parole 'Laws'

Kentucky with a view of reducing the prison load and following modern penological concepts, has liberalized its parole procedures, according to Walter Ferguson, parole board chairman.

Previously, a life term in Kentucky meant that one would serve a minimum of 8 years. The minimum is now 6 years, a reduction of two years.

The former rules provided also that one with a 21-year prison term could be paroled in six years. The new ones cut this to four years for sentences ranging from 15 to 21 years.

The old rules required that anyone serving a sentence of some other period serve at least one third of the term unless the offender was a "repeat-er," then the minimum parole time was one half the sentence.

The new rules now provide service of four months for each one-year when one may be paroled. The new rules set the following schedule of minimum term.

— Five months for sentences of one to one-and-a-half years.

## What Do You Think ? ?

### QUESTION OF THE WEEK

"The subject of television has become quite a controversial issue at the present time and opinions vary as to whether it is a blessing or a curse. One school of thought is that television is brainwashing its many viewers, while another praises it for being both educational and recreational.

**What is your point of view on television, in regard to Kilby's TV and viewers? ?**

**Otis Morrison—Power House**—TV is a blessing to most convicts. It is their only link with the outside world. Many of us never see things like new cars, the newest fashions (men and women,) and many, many other things; except through the eye of TV. Would'nt it be wonderful if we could see them in color?

**Gregory Metoyer—Cell Runner**—In my opinion it is definitely not brainwashing. In fact its the best entertainment we have here at Kilby, and I personally think that we should have the best color TV that money can buy. We have the money in the Welfare Fund, and as money is no object, then why not get one and progress with the times. This is the Atomic Age.

**Bert Griggs—Dental Clerk**—In my opinion it is not brainwashing, but very educational. It is the main source of recreation that we have here at Kilby. Only a very few inmates participate in sports activities. We have no woodwork shops, craft shops, and limited hobbies. TV is all the majority have for recreation and I think we should have the best, (Color TV). Since Draper has color TV, I can't understand why the Inmate Welfare Committee won't go to bat for such a good cause, which everyone would benefit from.

**Dale Wallace — Tag Plant** — TV is definitely a blessing to us. Everyone should know why. Without it we would still be in the Prohibition Era; but we are still, to an extent. Color TV has been commercial since 1956. That is 10 years past. Are we regressing or progressing? Color is now in the price range equivalent to the price of our present sets and we should make the change and progress with the times.

**James "Midget" Baggett—Cold Storage**—My opinion is that TV is very informative, and also, a fine source of entertainment. If some people are brainwashed by TV it is better than having a mind made stagnant from a lack of mental activity, such as TV provides.

I was at Draper and saw the advantages and improvements of Color TV there, and will say that I'm hopeful that we will be able to eventually get it here at Kilby.

**Edward S. Bosarge—Kitchen**—In my opinion, TV is a blessing, insofar as the prisoner is concerned. However, a comparison of Black and White TV to Color TV is like comparing a Model T to an Oldsmobile. Its old time. Black and White TV has gotten old to many here and due to this, there are many idle minds here.

Many here, have'nt ever seen Colored TV sets and it would certainly stop much of this idleness, so why can't we move up to modern times.

— Six months for sentences of one-and-a-half to two years.

— Seven months for sentences from two to two-and-a-half years.

— Eight months for sentences from two-and-a-half to three years.

— Ten months for a three-year sentence.

— One year for a sentence from three to fifteen years.

"A small percentage of those paroled are returned," the Kentucky parole chief said, "though that is far too many, as any are far too many."

The state board of which Mr. Ferguson is chairman considers the "whole background," in addition to reports from local parole officers.

"Only after a careful review

## Coal Shovelers

Continued from Page 1

theless, it is a necessity here at Kilby. The local needs for natural gas puts too much demand on the system locally during the extreme temperatures. This requires the imposing of a priority selection in those to be served. Schools, hospitals, and industry get first priority.

This operation will continue until the temperature becomes more moderate.

is parole granted." Ferguson said.



## My Life As A Prisoner

By: Nicholas DeB. Katzenbach, Attorney General of the U. S.

As a school drop out who spent two years in prison, I have shared some of the experiences of the inmates of our Federal Institutions.

When I quit school to join the Army Air Force early in World War II, my training was as a navigator, and soon I was sent overseas.

In the winter of 1943, I was in the nose of a B-25 bomber that engaged the enemy over the Mediterranean Sea. We were shot down, and an Italian vessel picked up our crew. We were put in an Italian prison compound.

Before the war ended, I escaped twice, but I wasn't a very good escaper. Both times I was picked up pretty quickly.

On the first attempt, I squirmed under the barbed wire surrounding the prison compound, but I was picked up within a few hours and brought back.

My second try came after the Allied Troops started advancing up the Italian Peninsula, and the Italians decided to put prisoners on trains and take them to Germany.

We arrived at one town just as the U.S. Air Force got there. In the middle of the raid, a bomb concussion blew open the door of our boxcar and 20 to 30 of us got out. My pilot and I were about the last ones. We hid in town while the Germans searched for us, then at dusk, we began walking out of town. We walked by German soldier after German soldier... in our uniforms and not one of them stopped us.

This will show you what skill I had at escaping. We turned one corner and there was half the German Army coming right up the street toward us.

To get into the shadows, we ducked into a doorway, but when the Germans got there they did a column right and headed for us. We'd picked the doorway of the German Army Headquarters! Still they did not catch on to us and their officer told us to get out. We answered in "Italian" and then they chased us away.

We got just around the corner and ran into an Italian soldier with a flashlight. We were trapped. He was in front of us and the Germans were behind us. He said something to us, and all we could do was try to answer in "German". By then it dawned on them that maybe our uniforms meant something.

I spent the rest of the war in a German prison camp. But I decided not to waste my time there. I tried to figure out what books I would have read if I had stayed in school. I found that the prison library, which was stocked by the Red Cross and YMCA, had a good collection of these books, and I proceeded to read and study in my every spare moment. When I went back to school at Princeton after the war, I found all the time I had spent reading in prison had really paid off.

I tried to persuade the school authorities that the reading I did was equivalent to the two years of school I had missed. They were skeptical, but at least they let me take the appropriate examinations. Happily I passed and in the fall I went on to law school.

I learned that life in prison is far from ideal, but I also learned that prison time can be put to constructive use. It was one of the best lessons of my life.

## Catholic Corner

In using Christian symbols, Catholics and Protestants both make wide use of the XP. Usually the curved part of the P is made to rest in the upper trough of the X; while the stem of the P slices through the X top to bottom. It is a symbol for "Christ," XP being the first two letters in the Grecian word Christ. Actually it is a Christian monogram.

Similarly the IHS is a Christian monogram. IHS are the first three letters in the Grecian name Jesus. Both these symbols are designed into the new altar in the Chapel. They are by no means essential to the altar, but were used to help signify that men have set aside this particular table for use in the worship of God. In church building where symbolic design and

## "Never Had It So Good"

"NO HELP FROM HOME"

"THE LENS" (PP) Warden George A. Kropp, at the Southern Michigan Prison in Jackson, Michigan received a letter from Dade City, Florida, written by a 59 year-old man who was sentenced on May 8, 1943 to serve double life. He left prison on parole in 1958 and was discharged from parole in 1962. The letter read.

"I am writing to ask you if I may please come back. May I, please? I am not able to work, have been in a hospital, had a bad operation, and can't find work. . . . I had my home at Jackson for 16 years. They were the best years of my life. Please may I come back? That was my home, I like it very much and was happy when I was there. I have no home to go to... all I ask is just a place to stay, my

### Governor Visits Angola

Governor J. McKeithen announced last week that inmates who have served as much as two years at Angola "with no blemish on their records" would receive immediate consideration of commutation or pardon by his office.

The governor stated in a televised news conference that the trip which he made to Angola on January 13, had helped to change his opinion of the men confined here. He said that most of the inmates had a good attitude toward their confinement and that he would help those men who had completed as much as two years without misconduct.

—From The Angolite—

eats, clothes and a chance to do light odd jobs. Is that asking too much? I have lost my number and I have forgotten it. I will appreciate it very much and thank you kindly if you will do this for me."

Enclosed with the pathetic letter was a picture of the ex-inmate as he is today.

Warden Kropp returned the ex-convict's picture in a letter, writing, "I'm sorry, but rules and regulations of this institution and the laws of the State of Michigan would prohibit your return."

A hillbilly with a rifle over one shoulder and a jug over the other stopped the city slicker and said, "Stranger, take a slug outa my jug."

"No thanks," said the slicker, "I hate the stuff."

"Drink!" demanded the hillbilly, pointing the rifle at the city man's head.

He drank, then spluttered, "Agh, that's terrible!"

Ain't it though? Agreed the hillbilly. "Now you hold the gun on me while I take a drink."

\* \* \* \* \*

"Going out with him seems like playing checkers," said the roommate, describing her date for the previous evening. "He makes a move and I jump!"

... NEEDED ...

CAPABLE, QUALIFIED PERSONS INTERESTED IN IMPROVING THE KILBY SUN, TO WRITE AND SUBMIT ARTICLES FOR PRINTING WHICH WILL BE OF INTEREST TO THE GENERAL POPULATION, AND ALSO TO THE SUN'S READERS OUTSIDE

art are part of the building itself, it is more desirable that the altar be entirely plain, as is generally the case now.

We said earlier that the XP has a very interesting history. Well it does. Among the early uses of the XP, history records the following incident. The year was 312 A.D., the place was the Milivian Bridge, north of Rome. A decisive battle was soon to be fought between Constantine and the pagan tyrant Maxentius. Constantine was not yet a Christian but was very favorable toward them. The day before the battle Christ appeared to him in a dream. He told him to adopt the Cross as his standard instead of the Roman eagle. Constantine then ordered the standard of the cross to be carried before him in battle. And he ordered the monogram of Christ—the XP—to be painted on all his soldiers shields. Confident of divine assistance, Constantine came forth from the fierce struggle victorious. About a year later he issued the famous Edict of Milan, granting freedom to Christians throughout the Roman Empire.

Suspended beneath the altar in the chapel, the XP is seen surrounded by triangle. The triangle itself is a symbol of the three persons in the One God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Notice: The Catholic laymen come to Kilby every Thursday now instead of every other Thursday.